

# ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

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## MEMORANDUM

**To: Co-Chairs Clyde Burmaster & Barry Weinstein, MD**

**From: Government Affairs Vice-Chair Wright Ellis**

**Re: April & May, 2006 Meetings**

**Date: June 2, 2006**

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The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership Government Affairs Subcommittee met April 11, 2006 at the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) and May 16, 2006 at the Niagara County Center for Economic Development (NCCED). Present for the April meeting were subcommittee members McMahon, Ellis, and Lewis, as well as ENRP Co-Chair Weinstein, ENRP Member Tim Doolittle, and Buffalo Niagara Enterprise (BNE) Director of Business Development Daniel Barry. Present for the May meeting were subcommittee members McMahon, Allen, Ellis, and Lewis, as well as ENRP Member Samuel Ferraro, and ENRP Ad Hoc Members Michael Casale and Lawrence Witul.

### Economic Development Forum:

The subcommittee remains committed to holding two local governments forums on the topic of the economic development process (one for each county). In preparation for these forums the presentation and information sheet were redistributed for revision and will be changed based on the comments submitted. Daniel Barry of the BNE will replace Jerry Murphy as that organization's representative. The subcommittee targeted July 20 for the Erie County presentation, and August 17 for Niagara County. Databases of invitees will be created. At the June meeting, the subcommittee will review the presentation and speakers notes, and also do a "dry run" prior to the first presentation.

### Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS):

The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership Government Affairs Subcommittee recommended that the ENRP take leadership on the Regional Economic Development Strategy by releasing the REDS with the clusters currently completed being integrated to the already

completed contextual piece, and committing to completing one additional cluster per year for the next two years.

This recommendation was tabled at the March 31 general meeting in light of a concept presented by ENRP Members James Allen and Laura St. Pierre and UB Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth Director Kathryn Foster to present the REDS and several other concepts at a forum. While some favored this idea, others felt that it was only useful if it resulted in the release of the REDS. ENRP Administrator Tod Kniazuk was to set up a meeting with the aforementioned plus ENRP and subcommittee leadership. As that meeting was being put together, ENRP Co-Chair Weinstein met with Foster and gave her a short period of time to develop recommendations for implementation of the REDS.

**The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership Government Affairs Subcommittee reaffirmed its commitment to the timely release of the Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS), and requests an update on the UB Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth's proposals on the matter.**

Meeting with Mayor Brown:

This item has been tabled following the recommendation by ENRP Member Timothy Wanamaker that we first meet with staff from the City of Buffalo. That meeting will be arranged.

Census Update:

The subcommittee was reminded that in the last census the region lost a congressional seat due to the decrease in population of just 50,000 people. That underscores the importance of gaining an accurate count. Between this fall and spring of 2007 municipalities will receive a letter to update their census contacts. This is the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program. All municipalities are urged to respond to this letter in a timely fashion.

Other Topics:

Other topics discussed included potential cuts in funding to Empire State Development and the possible use of the bicentennial to launch collaborative efforts.